

Day of Prayer

Do you believe in prayer? The Son of God valued this form of communication with the Father, and prayed often. Mark 1:35 states that He rose up “a great while before day” and went into a solitary place to pray. Luke 6:12 informs us that sometimes He prayed all night long. If Jesus made prayer such a high priority, how much more so should we?

While the practice of taking our personal praises and petitions to God is very important, so, too, is corporate prayer. Millions of Americans will answer the call to prayer on Thursday, May 4, the 55th annual National Day of Prayer. They will flock to observances held in public venues to pray for the nation, governmental leaders, media, churches, families and schools.

And, of course, within Life Care Centers of America, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we should add some special requests of our own. More about that in just a bit.

This year’s theme is *America, Honor God* and is based on 1 Samuel 2:30: “Those who honor me, I will honor.” Shirley Dobson, chairman of National Day of Prayer and wife of Focus on the Family founder Dr. James Dobson, said, “At a time when so many principles found in Scripture have been rejected by society, it’s all the more vital that God’s people stand firmly in defense of the precepts He’s laid out in His Word. As we wage this cultural battle, however, none of our efforts are assured success without consistent, fervent prayer for God’s intervention. The National Day of Prayer provides each of us with a powerful opportunity to humble ourselves before the Almighty and to seek the ‘redeeming and preserving grace’ spoken about by Abraham Lincoln, asking God to forgive our collective rebellion against Him.”

Since its founding in 1970, prayer has been a foundation stone for Life Care. God’s wisdom, guidance and blessings are implored before every meeting of the board of directors, and prayer is offered before each important gathering, beseeching the Father’s presence and leadership in matters that lie ahead and praising Him for the success that He has enabled.

On Thursday, then, we encourage associates throughout our company to find the opportunity – before work, at standup meetings, during breaks or lunch hour, or after work – to pray for:

- Our nation, its institutions and leaders, as noted above, for wisdom that comes from on high..
- Our residents, who are our highest priority, for the best of outcomes.

(more)

- Our associates, our most important resource, as they interact with our customers, that they might have their own cups of compassion and commitment refilled, and that they may know the peace, joy and contentment that come only from being in the center of God's will.
- The families of those we serve, for they need strength, patience, emotional support and understanding of the changes occurring in their loved ones.
- The leadership of Life Care, that we may always follow the path established by God.

On Thursday in this space, we will feature the 2006 prayer for the nation, as written by Dr. Henry Blackaby, honorary chairman of the National Day of Prayer.

--Beecher Hunter